



**PORTLAND  
OVATIONS**

2023 | 2024



TICKETS: 207.842.0800  
[PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG](http://PORTLANDOVATIONS.ORG)



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Portland Ovations' 93rd season. Our biggest yet.

Please join us as we welcome dancers, musicians, storytellers, choreographers, drag artists, puppeteers, performers and composers coming from Israel, India, Ukraine, South Korea, Russia, Nova Scotia, the UK, South Africa, the Ivory Coast plus artists from across the U.S. and right here in Maine.

Together we'll share in the cultural traditions, artistic expressions, beauty and contemplation that can only be found when we gather to experience the power of live performance.

With 30 performances across at least seven venues in and around Portland, alongside a myriad of Ovations Offstage activities that deepen connections with the many artists, themes and performances ahead of us — 2023-24 is vibrant and robust.

From baroque stylings to the utterly contemporary, solo performance to large-scale productions, celebrated artists to bold new voices, there is truly something for everyone, including five Broadway titles; four dance performances; 11 concerts across chamber, pop, global and jazz; and several performances that defy categorization.

Thank you to the many corporate partners, foundations and Ovations Members that make seasons like this one as dynamic and wide-ranging as possible.

We look forward to seeing you again and again this season.

With gratitude,

Aimée M. Petrin  
Executive & Artistic Director

## Board of Directors

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SPRING2024

## Become a Portland Ovations Member Today!

### WHY JOIN?

As a nonprofit, Ovations relies on the support of our Members to sustain our artistic and educational programming. Members also enjoy exclusive benefits and a deeper connection to the performing arts and our community.

### YOUR SUPPORT

- Keeps ticket prices affordable
- Underwrites discounted and free tickets for students
- Helps to maintain a vibrant arts community

### BE A RECURRING DONOR

Ensure that your Membership benefits never lapse and maximize your total giving. Be a part of the pulse that keeps programs flowing throughout our communities through a recurring gift.

### PHOTO CREDITS

**COVER** | ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER, dancers Michael Jackson Jr. and Sarah Daley-Perdomo, photo by Dario Calmese | JERUSALEM QUARTET, F. Broede | MOMIX, Sharen Bradford | STOMP, Steve McNicholas | DAKHABRAKHA, Vitaliy Yurasov | LITTLE HOUSE DANCE, Robbie Sweeney Photo | JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER ORCHESTRA, Piper Ferguson | ZLATA CHOCHIEVA, Uwe Arens | SASHA VELOUR, Tanner & Nicholas | 360 ALLSTARS, Matt Loncar | POP ANNUAL FUNDRAISER, Katie Day | FAYE DRISCOLL, Bea Borgers | MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE & ABEL SELAOCOE, Gaelle Beri | UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN, Allison Burke | JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Evan Zimmerman | ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER, dancer Khalia Campbell, photo by Dario Calmese | HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY, Ian Watson

### EASY WAYS TO JOIN

**Online:** Go to portlandovations.org and look for the “support” tab.

**By Phone:** Call us at 207.773.3150, ext. 1

**In Person:** Visit the PortTIX Box Office at 20 Myrtle Street in Portland.

Monday-Friday, 11 AM-3 PM

### When Purchasing Your Tickets:

When purchasing by phone or in person, choose your Membership level (see chart) and tell the customer service representative at PortTIX that you'd like to join before placing your ticket order. Your benefits will begin immediately.

## Annual Membership Options & Benefits

<b>FRIEND</b> • \$25-\$99	<b>ADVOCATE</b> • \$100-\$499	<b>PARTNER</b> • \$500-\$999
<b>STANDING O CIRCLE</b> • \$1,000-\$4,999	<b>BENEFACTORS</b> • \$5,000-\$9,999	
<b>INNOVATORS</b> • \$10,000+		

- • • • • Advanced ticketing opportunities for all performances
- • • • • Members-only ticket discounts
- • • • • Invitation to special Members-only events
- • • • • Unlimited ticket exchanges
- • • • • Invitation to Season Announcement
- • • • • Special access to our Members-only Newsletter
- • • • • MemberCard, a 2-for-1 dining card
- • • • • A complimentary pair of tickets to select performances
- • • • • Special invitations to artist receptions
- • • • • Complimentary beverage for 2 at all Merrill Auditorium performances
- • • • • An additional (2) complimentary tickets (for a total of 4) to one of a selection of performances
- • • • • Personalized concierge ticket services to guarantee priority ticketing and seating
- • • • • Courtesy meeting with artists when possible
- • • • • Free parking for all Merrill Auditorium performances

## About Us

Portland Ovations is a nonprofit cultural organization based in Southern Maine dedicated to gathering communities to share in the power of live performance. Ovations connects artists and audiences both onstage and off — making the arts an integral part of community life.

Our unique array of live performances for public and school audiences are curated to delight, inspire and educate. Venues used throughout greater Portland include historic and modern theaters, clubs, galleries, and classrooms — chosen carefully to ensure the best possible experience for both audiences and artists.

Please join us for a season of performances that span the traditional to the contemporary, the intimate to the spectacular, the popular to the unexpected.

## Vision

To inspire a curious and imaginative community where the experience of the performing arts is a vital part of everyday life.

## Mission

Portland Ovations propels the artistic, social, educational and economic wellbeing of communities through the power of the performing arts.

## Core Values

- Celebrates the power and brilliance of the performing arts
- Commits to being anti-racist
- Continues to evolve governance, operations, finances and programs to embody inclusivity, diversity, equity and access
- Nurtures a staff, board and collective culture that is compassionate, committed and enthusiastic
- Collaborates with other arts organizations, nonprofits, education systems and the business sector to promote lifelong learning through the arts



AIMÉE M. PETRIN  
Executive & Artistic Director



CASEY OAKES  
Associate Director



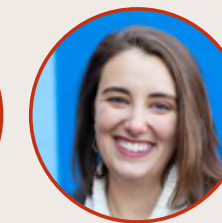
MARY C. CAMPBELL  
Office Administrator



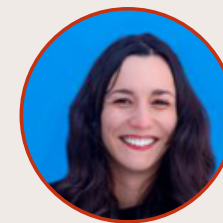
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Marketing Manager



ERIC HAGER  
Production Manager



KATELYN MANFRE  
Director of Community Programs & Partnerships



JAMIE BARILONE  
Development Manager



LIZ SCHILDKRET  
Director of School & Family Programs

## How to Order Tickets

### IN PERSON

PortTIX is located in the lobby of Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle Street, Portland. Regular box office hours are Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM and 90 minutes before each performance.  
**BY PHONE • 207.842.0800**

Call PortTIX Monday–Friday, 11 AM–3 PM

### ONLINE • portlandovations.org

Tickets to individual performances may be purchased from our website at any time. Some discounts may not be available online.



SEASON MEDIA SPONSORS:



TO PURCHASE TICKETS CALL **PORTTIX 207.842.0800**

## Discounts

### MEMBERS

Members receive a 10% discount on performances for tickets, unless otherwise noted.

### STUDENTS

Any full-time student is eligible to purchase tickets for most events at a 10% discount, as well as our deeply discounted “Student Deal” tickets for select events listed throughout this brochure. Student Deal tickets are available over the phone, in person and online.

### GROUPS

A Portland Ovation performance makes for a sensational outing at reduced rates for groups. For group sales contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800, ext.231, or groups@porttix.com.

### SENIORS

Patrons over 65 are entitled to purchase tickets at a discounted rate for most performances.

**Discounts cannot be combined or retroactively applied.**

## Fees

Tickets are subject to a per ticket service fee varying from \$2–\$12 depending on the price of the performance. Fees apply at all modes of sale.

## Exchanges

Ticket exchanges are available to Portland Ovations’ Members only. Exchange requests must be made prior to the performance date of the original tickets.

If you have questions about buying packages or tickets please contact PortTIX at 207.842.0800. Packages are available through all modes of sale.

**TICKET PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

# Jerusalem Quartet

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023 • 3PM**  
 MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM, PORTLAND

**“Passion, precision, warmth, a gold blend: these are the trademarks of this excellent Israeli string quartet.”**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Jerusalem Quartet is renowned for remarkable individual versatility in addition to their exceptional musical teamwork. Their seamless blend and richly characterized performances make them an audience favorite worldwide. The ensemble revels in a warm, full, human sound that spans high and low voices, giving the quartet a balanced relationship between individual expression and a transparent and respectful presentation of the composers’ work. With Ovations, the program includes works by Felix Mendelssohn, Paul Ben-Haim and Claude Debussy.

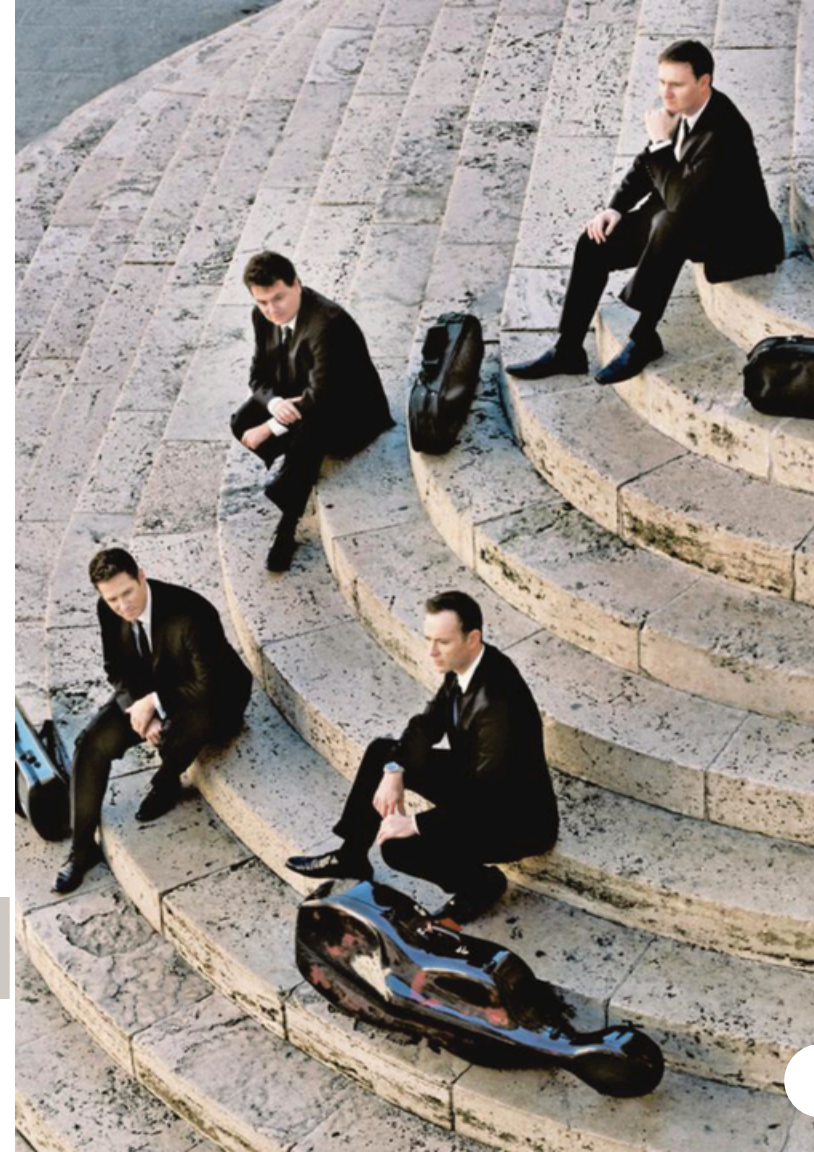
*Reception with the artists to follow the performance.*

**TICKETS • \$65**

Members save **10% off** full-priced tickets.



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 THE DAVID NICHOLS CHARITABLE TRUST





## Ustad Shafaat Khan Trio: *Music to Heal the Soul*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 • 7 PM  
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

“Virtuoso ... Classical purity ... Astonishing individuality ...”

— THE WASHINGTON POST

Mesmerizing. Virtuoso. Poetic. Master sitar player, Ustad Shafaat Khan enthral audiences worldwide with dynamic concerts that include Indian classical and folk music, Sufi inspired compositions, and musical styles ranging from western classical, jazz and rock, to pop, flamenco, and African rhythms. Having performed for presidents, prime ministers and royalty around the world, Master Khan’s musical heritage can be traced back to the 16th century to the court of the Mughal Emperor Akbar. He is the son of the legendary Sitar player Surbahar Maestro Ustad Imrat Khan and nephew of the legendary Ustad Vilayat Khan. Collaborators have included Stevie Wonder, Ray Charles and Dr. Deepak Chopra, among others. For his Ovation recital, Master Khan is joined by musicians Ryan Shah on tabla and Anawin Avila on guitar and saxophone.

TICKETS • \$45  
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



## MOMIX: *Alice*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND



“MOMIX’s ‘Alice’ fills the stage with a marvelously dizzying flow of physical activities and illusions amid expansive, artful projections”

— WALL STREET JOURNAL

Seamlessly blending illusion, acrobatics, magic and whimsy, MOMIX sends audiences flying down the rabbit hole in Moses Pendleton’s newest creation, *Alice*, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s classic *Alice in Wonderland*. “I don’t intend to retell the whole Alice story,” Pendleton says, “but use it as a taking off point for invention.” Experience this dazzling company on a mind-bending adventure, as Alice encounters characters including the undulating Caterpillar, a lobster quadrille, frenzied White Rabbits, a mad Queen of Hearts, and a variety of other surprises. Filled with visual splendor and startling creative movement, *Alice* reveals that nothing in MOMIX’s world is as it seems.

TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$55 • \$60  
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



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MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA  
***It's Okay to Be Different —***  
**Stories by Todd Parr**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 • 6 PM**  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“Mermaid is globally renowned for its innovative productions.”**

— WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

What if being different wasn't always such a bad thing? What if — gasp — it could be a strength? That's not just the title of Mermaid Theatre's adaptation of writer Todd Parr's children's storybooks, it's the core message. Adapted from three books by Parr, this colorful production encourages everyone to embrace what makes them unique. *It's Okay to Be Different* playfully delivers important messages of acceptance, understanding and self-confidence. Equally whimsical and heartfelt, *The Earth Book* is a sweet homage to our beautiful planet, inspiring readers of all ages to do their part to keep the earth happy and healthy. *This is My Hair* is a funny exploration of how silly hair can be and that no matter how your hair looks, it is important to always feel good about yourself. The production features Mermaid Theatre's signature approach to puppetry — using black light to bring Parr's vibrant illustrations to life — as well as a diverse cast and playful, original music.

**TICKETS • \$15**



SPONSORED BY  
**J.S. MCCARTHY PRINTERS**

www.mermaidtheatre.com

**STOMP**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023 • 7 PM**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • 1 PM**  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“STOMP finds beautiful noises in the strangest places.”**

— USA TODAY

STOMP returns to Portland! Explosive, provocative, sophisticated, utterly unique and appealing to audiences of all ages, the international percussion sensation has garnered an armful of awards, rave reviews and has appeared on numerous national television shows. The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments — matchboxes, wooden poles, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps — to fill the stage with magnificent rhythms. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises, with some sections of the show now updated and restructured, and the addition of two new full-scale routines, utilizing props like tractor tire inner tubes and paint cans. See what all the noise is about.

**TICKETS • \$50 • \$68 • \$78**

Members save  
**10%** off full-priced tickets.



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## DakhaBrakha

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Presented with State Theatre

**“The group mixes everything from punk-pop to traditional Ukrainian songs in cool yet beguiling textures, often with the close harmonies usually associated with Balkan music. But it’s really the live shows that take DakhaBrakha beyond mere curiosity to utter brilliance.”**

— NPR

Direct from Kyiv, DakhaBrakha returns to Ovation with its self-described “ethno chaos” of folk-pop punk. Reflecting fundamental elements of sound and soul, DakhaBrakha creates a world of unexpected new music. Experimenting with Ukrainian folk music accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, and Ukrainian traditional instrumentation, the quartet’s astonishingly powerful and uncompromising vocal range creates a transnational sound rooted in Ukrainian culture. At the crossroads of Ukrainian folklore and theater, their musical spectrum is at first intimate then riotous, plumbing the depths of contemporary roots and rhythms, inspiring “cultural and artistic liberation.”

TICKETS • \$25 • \$35 • \$50

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



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## Palaver Strings + little house dance: *Noisefloor*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 • 7 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Produced with State Theatre

**“One of the most compelling things I’ve seen on stage in a while.”**

— ODC DANCE STORIES (LITTLE HOUSE DANCE)

**“Lively and emotional performances given without a conductor.”**

— THE GUARDIAN (PALAVER STRINGS)

Palaver Strings joins forces with contemporary dance collective, little house dance, to present *Noisefloor* an immersive physical, visual, and musical experience. This interdisciplinary performance features twelve musicians and seven dancers with a new composition by Courtney Swain. A unique theatrical perspective, *Noisefloor* explores the subjectivity of human reality, including visual and auditory perception, the “field” of our lived experience.

TICKETS • \$20 • \$65

STUDENT DEAL • \$10

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



# COME FROM AWAY

TRUE STORY. HIT MUSICAL.

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Come From Away**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024 • 8 PM  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024 • 1 PM & 7 PM  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“A celebration of the best of humankind and an uplifting piece of art for our times”**

— DAILY BEAST

On 9/11, the world stopped. On 9/12, their stories moved us all. This stirring and inspiring musical takes you into the heart of the remarkable true story of the small town in Newfoundland that opened their homes to 7,000 stranded travelers on 9/11. During that fateful week, cultures clashed and nerves ran high — but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. Celebrate the best of humankind and the best in all of us at *Come From Away*.

Don't miss this breathtaking musical written by Tony® nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein, directed by Tony-winning Best Director, Christopher Ashley and musical staging by Tony-nominee Kelly Devine. The tour is directed by Daniel Goldstein with musical staging by Richard J. Hinds, based on the original Broadway direction and choreography.

TICKETS • \$70 • \$95 • \$105

Members save 10% off full-priced tickets.



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## Martha Redbone Roots Project

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 • 7 PM  
 FIRST PARISH CHURCH, PORTLAND

**“A true original; the kind of artist who sets trends, as opposed to following them.”**

— BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

Native and African American vocalist/songwriter/composer/educator Martha Redbone is celebrated for her unique gumbo of folk, blues and gospel from her childhood in Harlan County, Kentucky, infused with the eclectic grit of pre-gentrified Brooklyn, New York. Inheriting the powerful vocal range of her gospel singing African American father and the resilient spirit of her mother's Cherokee/Shawnee/Choctaw culture, Redbone broadens the boundaries of American Roots music. With songs and storytelling that share her life experience as a Native and Black woman and mother in the new millennium, Redbone gives voice to issues of social justice, bridging traditions from past to present, connecting cultures, and celebrating the human spirit. Redbone is joined by Aaron Whitby on piano, Charlie Burnham on violin and Fred Cash on bass.

TICKETS • \$42

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save 10% off full-priced tickets.



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## Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“[Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra] has never wavered from its commitment to jazz’s thickest roots.”**

— NEW YORK TIMES

Jazz giant, trumpeter Wynton Marsalis leads the illustrious Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, a 15-piece ensemble of virtuosos credited for re-imagining and contemporizing the notion of the “big band.” Simultaneously honoring the rich heritage of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, Thelonious Monk and others while debuting a stunning variety of music by illustrious names, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra performs a vast repertoire from rare historic compositions to unique arrangements to newly commissioned works. No one swings like the exciting and charismatic players of Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

*This performance was previously scheduled for April 23, 2023. All previously purchased performance tickets have been transferred to this new date.*

TICKETS • SOLD OUT

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



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**OceanView**  
AT FALMOUTH  
A FALMOUTH COMMUNITY CORPORATION

## Zlata Chochieva, piano

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024 • 3 PM  
HANNAFORD HALL, USM CAMPUS, PORTLAND

**“I can think of few piano recitals finer than this.”**

— SEEN AND HEARD INTERNATIONAL

Hailed by *Gramophone* magazine as “one of the most consistently inspired, masterfully executed and beautiful-sounding versions I can recall” and included in *Gramophone’s* list of 10 Greatest Frédéric Chopin recordings, *F. Chopin: Complete Etudes* thrust Russian pianist Zlata Chochieva to international attention. Known for her distinctive voice; fluid, delicate style; and gracious sense of phrasing, Chochieva appears regularly with major orchestras and at prestigious concert halls and festivals around the world such as Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Vienna Konzerthaus, Philharmonie de Paris, and Teatro La Fenice in Venice among others. Her debut recital with Ovarions features work by Frédéric Chopin for which she is known.

TICKETS • \$48  
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



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JERRY & SUSAN GOLDBERG FUND OF  
THE MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION





## Sasha Velour's *The Big Reveal Live show!*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024 • 7 PM

STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

Co-Presented with State Theatre

**“Velour (is) taking her performance artistry to the next level.”**

— BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

An evening with gender-fluid drag artist and author Sasha Velour must be experienced to be believed. This multimedia lip-synch fantasy comes alive with captivating visuals and breath-taking surprises. Throughout the evening, Velour uses signature theatrical techniques to unmask deeper truths about gender, joy and community. Widely known as the winner of the ninth season of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” and as the author of *The Big Reveal: An Illustrated Manifesto of Drag*, Velour is a queen unlike any other.

With a special guest to be announced.

**VIP ADD ON** includes intimate meet-and-greet with a photo opportunity before the performance.

**TICKETS** • \$35 • \$45 • \$65 • \$80

**VIP ADD-ON** • \$50 (Must also purchase event ticket)

Members save  
**10%** off full-  
priced tickets.



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**Puelle Design.**

GEALive, Quatro Entertainment, The Estate of Johnny Cash & Soundbox Succession Present

## Johnny Cash: *The Official Concert Experience*

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024 • 7 PM

MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“This brand new concert experience will bring my father — and his music — back to fans all around the world.”**

— JOHN CARTER CASH

From the same producers of the worldwide audience favorite *The Simon & Garfunkel Story*, *Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience* brings songs and stories from the Man in Black to the stage in a way that audiences haven’t seen or heard before. With video of Johnny from episodes of “The Johnny Cash Television Show” projected on a screen above the stage, a live band and singers accompany him in perfect sync. This concert experience showcases iconic performances from the TV show and highlights the spirit of the legend by revisiting some of his memorable words and anecdotes. Cash performs some of his biggest hits, including “Folsom Prison Blues,” “Ring of Fire,” and “I Walk the Line,” and shares stories of people he met along the way whose causes he championed — the working man from all walks of life. Plus, onstage male and female singers split vocal duties performing their own takes on Cash hits. The music never stops in this concert event!

**TICKETS** • \$48 • \$68 • \$78

Members save  
**10%** off full-  
priced tickets.

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## 360 ALLSTARS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“A supercharged show ... heart-pumping music, dazzling lights and video, and incredibly talented athletes and musicians.”**

— THEATERMANIA

Breakdancing, BMX, basketball, acrobatics, drumming and more, the international smash hit 360 ALLSTARS is a supercharged urban circus like no other. With phenomenal physical performances exploring all forms of rotation, 360 ALLSTARS boasts a stellar cast of World Champion and World Record holding artists and athletes. A spectacular fusion of the extraordinary artistry that emerges from street culture with a stunning live soundtrack delivered by award-winning musicians and spectacular video — 360 ALLSTARS is as aurally exciting as it is visually astounding.

TICKETS • \$25 • \$35 • \$45 • \$50  
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



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# POP

Save the Date!

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024  
O'MAINE STUDIOS, PORTLAND

Live performances. Food from around the world created by some of Portland's most exciting chefs. Delightful libations. Auctions. Celebrity hosts. You. Join us as we come together for a dynamic evening wholly unique to Ovarions and our commitment to gathering people, sharing cultures and creating community through the power of live performance.



## Faye Driscoll

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 • 7 PM  
WESTBROOK PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**“Driscoll is fascinating in that she makes such utterly original work. It doesn’t look like anything you’ve ever seen before, nor can you imagine thinking it up.”**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

The 2022 recipient of the inaugural Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Contemporary Dance Award, Faye Driscoll is known for crafting an alchemy of bodies and voices, objects and live sound. Driscoll opens new intimacies that grapple with power and presence, as well as yearning and absence. In her new range of explorations — which began pre-Covid — Driscoll extended these inquiries into exhibitions and audio works, moving into new realms of exchange. Hailed as a “startlingly original talent” (*The New York Times*) Driscoll’s work has been presented nationally at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Walker Art Center, The Institute for Contemporary Art/Boston, MCA/Chicago and Brooklyn Academy of Music, and internationally at La Biennale di Venezia, Festival d’Automne à Paris, Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb, Melbourne Festival, Belfast International Arts Festival, Onassis Cultural Centre in Athens and Centro de Arte Experimental in Buenos Aires.

TICKETS • \$37

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.

SUPPORTED BY



ELLIS-BEAUREGARD  
FOUNDATION

## Sirocco: Manchester Collective & Abel Selaocoe

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024 • 7 PM  
STATE THEATRE, PORTLAND

**“‘Sirocco’ is a once in a lifetime experience.”**

— PLAYS TO SEE

*Sirocco* is pure joy and energy — a great storm of music that celebrates the warmth and diversity of music and cultural traditions from across the globe. Guest directed and narrated by astounding South African cellist Abel Selaocoe, this is music for the people by the people. *Sirocco* spans everything from outrageous arrangements for solo cello to beloved classics, and from original African music to a collection of Danish folk songs.

TICKETS • \$25 • \$35 • \$50

STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.

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BACK COVE FINANCIAL  
Honest • Independent • Experienced





GEORGE HINCHLIFFE'S  
**Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 • 7 PM**  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“The sophisticated sound they make — both percussive and melodic — is at once hilarious and heartfelt.”**

— THE FINANCIAL TIMES

An Ovations audience favorite, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain perform on instruments bought with loose change and believe all genres of music are available for reinterpretation — as long as they are played on the ukulele. A concert by these all-singing, all-strumming musicians is a funny, virtuosic, twanging, awesome, foot-stomping obituary of rock-n-roll and melodious light entertainment. Featuring only the “bonsai guitar” and a menagerie of voices in a collision of post-punk performance and toe-tapping oldies — with no drums, pianos, backing tracks or banjos, no pitch shifters or electronic trickery — their joyous concerts are a revelation of the rich palette of orchestration afforded by ukuleles and singing (and a bit of whistling). Going from Pyotr Tchaikovsky to Nirvana via Otis Redding and Spaghetti Western soundtracks, the Orchestra takes audiences on “a world tour with only hand luggage” and gives the listener “One Plucking Thing After Another.”

**TICKETS • \$35 • \$45 • \$55**  
**STUDENT DEAL • \$20**

Members save  
**10%** off full-priced tickets.



BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Jesus Christ Superstar**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024 • 8 PM**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 • 1 PM & 7 PM**  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“A gorgeous, thrilling, heavenly musical.”**

— THE GUARDIAN

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon returns to the stage. Originally staged by London’s Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre and helmed by acclaimed director Timothy Sheeder (*Crazy for You*, *Into the Woods*) and cutting-edge choreographer Drew McOnie (*King Kong*, *Strictly Ballroom*), this production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival, garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades. Appealing to both theater audiences and concert music fans, this production pays tribute to the historic 1971 *Billboard* Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring. With award-winning lyrics and music by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of Judas. The legendary score includes “I Don’t Know How to Love Him,” “Gethsemane” and “Superstar,” reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation.

*Recommended for ages 10+.*

**TICKETS • \$55 • \$80 • \$95**

Members save  
**10%** off full-priced tickets.





Photo by: Dario Calmese  
Dancer: Khalia Campbell

## Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024 • 7 PM  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“Nothing prepared you for the totality of Alvin Ailey: the aural, visual, physical, spiritual beauty ... Heaven ... Everywhere you looked: sensory pleasure ...”**

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Marvel at their virtuosity and grace, feel their passion, connect to the heart of dance with the iconic Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. This evening of extraordinary dance, expounding on Ailey’s unique mix of contemporary and classic movement, features a variety of works through the company’s 65-year legacy, including the timeless masterpiece *Revelations*. Using African American spirituals, song-sermons, gospel songs and blues, *Revelations* fervently explores the places of profound grief and holiest joy. Whether experiencing Ailey again or for the first time, the artists take audiences on a path of discovery, where dance opens a window to the heart and soul, revealing our deepest selves.

**Robert Battle**  
Artistic Director  
Matthew Rushing  
Associate Artistic Director

TICKETS • \$45 • \$65 • \$75 • \$90

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY  
FRANCESCA GALLUCCIO-STEELE & PHIL STEELE

## Handel and Haydn Society

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 • 3 PM  
HANNAFORDHALL, USMCAMPUS, PORTLAND

**“The group pulled off the marathon concert with aplomb, shining with delightful liveliness.”**

— THE BOSTON MUSICAL INTELLIGENCER

Could there be a more perfect collection of concertos than the Brandenburgs? Johann Sebastian Bach’s treasury of instrumental music — dazzlingly inventive, virtuosic, exuberant — when played on period instruments, promises an unparalleled immersion into the great master’s music. Acclaimed for its playing of chamber music through the centuries, Handel and Haydn Society embraces historically informed performance, bringing classical music to life with the same immediacy it had the day it was composed. Marvel as the Handel and Haydn Society performs multiple Brandenburg Concertos along with other baroque favorites at Hannaford Hall.

TICKETS • \$55  
STUDENT DEAL • \$20

Members save  
10% off full-  
priced tickets.



# MEAN GIRLS

BROADWAY NATIONAL TOUR  
**Mean Girls**

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 • 7 PM  
 FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 • 7 PM  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“Hilarious! A smart, splashy new musical that delivers with immense energy, a wicked sense of humor and joyful inside-jokery.”**

— NEW YORK MAGAZINE

Direct from Broadway, *Mean Girls* is the hilarious hit musical from an award-winning creative team, including book writer Tina Fey (“30 Rock”), composer Jeff Richmond (“Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”), lyricist Nell Benjamin (*Legally Blonde*) and director Casey Nicholaw (*The Book of Mormon*). Cady Heron may have grown up on an African savanna, but nothing prepared her for the vicious ways of her strange new home: suburban Illinois. Soon, this naïve newbie falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies led by the charming but ruthless Regina George. But when Cady devises a plan to end Regina’s reign, she learns the hard way that you can’t cross a Queen Bee without getting stung.

TICKETS • \$70 • \$95 • \$105

Members save 10% off full-priced tickets.



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## Bluey’s Big Play

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 • 6 PM  
 THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024 • 6 PM  
 MERRILL AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

**“A glorious celebration of everything you love about the show.”**

— THE GUARDIAN

This is Bluey’s Big Play, For Real Life.

When Dad feels like a little bit of Sunday afternoon time out, Bluey and Bingo have other plans! Join them as they pull out all of the games and cleverness at their disposal to get Dad off that bean bag. *Bluey’s Big Play* is a brand-new theatrical adaptation of the Emmy® award-winning children’s television series, with an original story by Bluey creator Joe Brumm, and new music by Bluey composer, Joff Bush. Join the Heelers in their first live theatre show made just for you, featuring brilliantly created puppets, this is Bluey as you’ve never seen it before, brought to real life. *Bluey’s Big Play* is presented by BBC Studios and Andrew Kay in association with Windmill Theatre Co.

**VIP EXPERIENCE** gives patrons VIP premium seating in the theater and post-show meet and greet with Bluey.

TICKETS • \$25 • \$35 • \$55 • \$75  
 VIP EXPERIENCE • \$130

Members save 10% off full-priced tickets.



SUPPORTED BY



MEDIA SPONSOR



# Daniel Bernard Roumain

SPRING, 2024

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

**“It was the raw, cry from the soul new work, ‘The Just and the Blind’, that has stayed with me”**

— NEW YORK TIMES

Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) draws on his experience as a composer, activist and educator to develop an original, multidisciplinary, site-responsive art event wholly unique to Portland. A longtime collaborator and friend of Ovations, this is our fourth project together. DBR was last in Maine for a series of outdoor free concerts atop a flatbed truck in October 2020 and before that he led a massive street parade EN MASSE which closed Congress Street for thousands of community members and artists to walk together in art.

Inspired by Portland’s complex Black, Brown and LGBTQIA+ histories and contemporary life, through this project DBR aims to reflect the breath, sorrow and beauty of Portland, Maine, using live performance to mark, reclaim, help heal and celebrate a place or space. It is this call, this responsibility to revisit

and remember what happened, to fill space with light, love, and blessings that drives the work and serve as a guiding light for creating a welcoming and safe environment for those who resonate deeply with its themes. As DBR explains, he intends the work to be personal, even familial, accessible, and intimate, and deeply collaborative where communities can participate as they wish — where they can hold vigil, hold space, and hold each other.

In development from January–May 2024, Maine artists from across all disciplines will be invited to respond in their own creative way to a new compositional piece by DBR and join in the culminating community performance — date, time and location to be announced.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

SPONSORED BY



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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



## O2 Ovations Offstage

A key part of Portland Ovations' work is bringing performing arts and artists off our stages and into the vibrant, daily lives of our communities. Ovations Offstage (O2) is where artists and audiences connect, creating magical moments that last a lifetime. Through in-school and public programs focused on three "pillars" — skills-based instruction, arts integration, and cultural competence — all are invited to join us in celebrating the power of live performance.

In collaboration with and grateful for our many community partners, O2 hosts a wide variety of events each season, geared to audience members at all ages and all stages of their performing arts exploration. These include:

- Pre-performance talks
- Masterclasses and public workshops with visiting artists
- Unexpected "art happenings"
- Community conversations
- Film screenings
- Post-performance Q&A's
- Open rehearsals
- Meet-the-Artist events

To keep up with events as they are announced, visit [portlandovations.org/community-events](http://portlandovations.org/community-events).





**YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES O2 POSSIBLE**


## School-Time Performance Series

Portland Ovations' School-Time Performance Series presents innovative and engaging performances from all over the world in venues like Merrill Auditorium, Westbrook Performing Arts Center and in schools for Pre-K to 12th grade students. These performances are intentionally crafted for students to promote existing curriculum and arts integration, as well as provide students access to both international and Maine-based art and artists. Each School-Time Performance includes an Educator Guide with curriculum connections, activities, and questions to extend learning beyond the theater, and pre- and post-show workshops are available to deepen the experience for students. A wide range of resources for students and educators are available at [portlandovations.org/school-programs](http://portlandovations.org/school-programs).

### 2023-24 School-Time Performances



 Cultivating Curiosity

***It's Okay to Be Different — Stories by Todd Parr***   
OCTOBER 30, 2023 • 10 AM

**Wabanaki Stories**   
NOVEMBER 9, 2023 • 10 AM

**Martha Redbone Roots Project**  
AVAILABLE TO BOOK IN-SCHOOL, FEBRUARY 1-2, 2024

**Stories and Songs with Samuel James**  
AVAILABLE TO BOOK IN-SCHOOL, MARCH 1-MAY 31, 2024

***Cenicienta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story***    
MARCH 5, 2024 • 10 AM & 12 PM

**360 ALLSTARS**  
MARCH 14, 2024 • 10 AM

**POLI POP**  
APRIL 25, 2024 • 10 AM



### Tickets

Tickets may be purchased by any public, private, or home school. To request School-Time Performance materials with more information about performances and related workshops, please contact Ovations Offstage:

207.773.3150 ext. 3  
[Offstage@portlandovations.org](mailto:Offstage@portlandovations.org)

**Thank you to our School-Time Performance Series and Ovations Offstage sponsors and funders.**



## 2023-24 PERFORMANCE VENUES

PORTLAND OVATIONS USES VARIOUS VENUES TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR AUDIENCES AND THE ARTISTS WE PRESENT

### Merrill Auditorium

A beautifully restored 1,900-seat performance venue, this majestic municipal hall is one of the gems of Portland's downtown Arts District and is located at 20 Myrtle Street, near many excellent restaurants.

### Hannaford Hall

A warm and welcoming space located at 88 Bedford Street on the USM Portland campus, Hannaford Hall is an intimate 520-seat venue with 130-seat mezzanine. An attached 1,200-car parking garage makes accessing the performances convenient and hassle-free.

### Westbrook Performing Arts Center

A truly state-of-the-art 1,000-seat theater located at Westbrook Middle School at 471 Stroudwater Street in Westbrook, just minutes from downtown Portland, with free parking.

### State Theatre

An iconic 1,870-seat performing arts venue located at 609 Congress Street in downtown Portland, featuring a combination of Moorish and Art Deco architecture and state-of-the-art audio and lighting systems.

### Maine Jewish Museum

A venue housed within the restored Etz Chaim Synagogue at 267 Congress Street in Portland, a turn-of-the-century house of worship.

### First Parish Church

A beautiful and historic building located at 425 Congress Street in downtown Portland housing the meeting house, Parish Hall, Memorial Garden and more.

### Accessibility



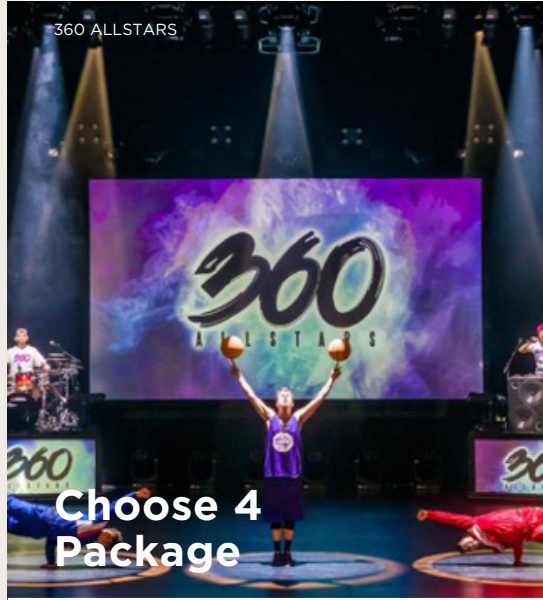
Portland Ovarations is committed to providing accessible facilities and programs. For information about event specific accessibility services, please visit the individual event pages at portlandovations.org.



ASL interpreted performances feature interpreters who translate what is said and expressed onstage. Select performances in Ovarations 2023-24 season will have ASL interpretation as indicated throughout this brochure.

ASL interpretation available upon request for all other events.

## GET MORE OF WHAT YOU LOVE: PACKAGE AND SAVE!



**Choose 4 Package**

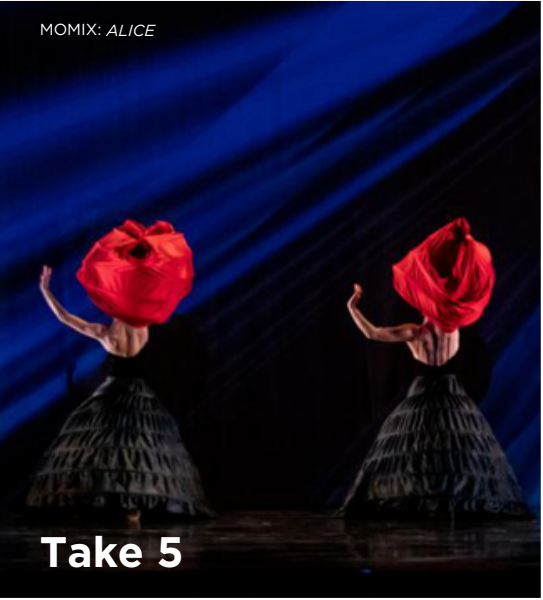
Purchase tickets to four different performances in the season through a single transaction and enjoy a 10% discount off of your purchase with the Choose 4 Package. Some titles do not qualify for sale price.



**Broadway & Beyond Package**

Buy tickets to four Portland Ovarations "Broadway & Beyond" performances and save 15%.

- STOMP
- *Come From Away* Broadway National Tour
- Johnny Cash: *The Official Concert Experience*
- *Jesus Christ Superstar* Broadway National Tour
- *Mean Girls* Broadway National Tour



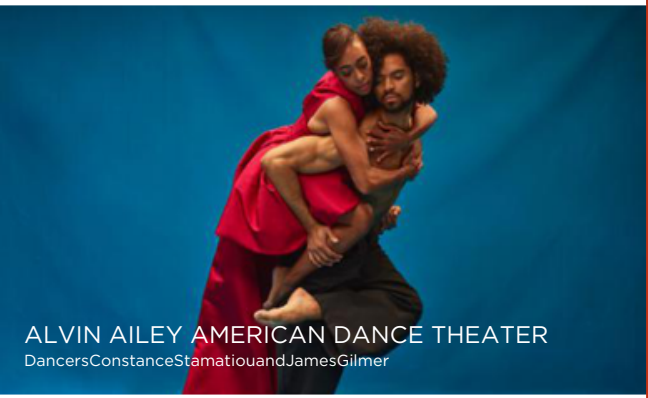
**Take 5**

Experience the diversity of Ovarations' season. Buy all five of the following curated Portland Ovarations performances for only \$100 plus fees.

- MOMIX: *Alice*
- Zlata Chochieva, piano
- 360 ALLSTARS
- Faye Driscoll
- *Sirocco*: Manchester Collective & Abel Salaoocoe



SASHA VELOUR'S **THE BIG REVEAL LIVE SHOW!**



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER  
Dancers Constance Stamatidou and James Gilmer



ZLATA CHOCHIEVA, PIANO



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